

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year ended 31st December, 1956.



Medical Officer

Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Town Hall,
Newtown.

Public Health Inspector

B. Brooks Evans, M.R.S.I.
Plas Machynlleth,
Machynlleth.

MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman

Mr. G. H. Evans.

Members

Major R. H. Jones-Evans, M.B.E.
Mr. O. B. James.
Mr. Llewellyn Jenkins (deceased.)
Mr. J. Ll. Pugh,
Mr. Iorwerth Rowlands, J.P.
Mr. T. Vaughan.
Mr. H. H. Barker.
Mr. J. T. Royles.
Mr. I. G. Owen.
Mr. J. D. Holt.
Mr. W. A. Breese.
Mr. R. H. Edwards (deceased.)
Mr. G. Ll. Jones.
Mr. R. H. Micah.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

- Amelia Evans.

Public Health Inspector

- B. Brooks Evans.

Clerk to Public Health Inspector

- Rhiannon Lewis.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1956 on the health and sanitary conditions in your district and which is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 19/56 (Wales).

STAFF There were no staff changes in 1956.

TOTAL STATISTICS

Births

The birth rate for 1956 was 13.66 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 15.22 in 1955.

The rate for the urban districts in the County was 14.92 per 1,000 and for the whole County of Montgomeryshire this rate was 15.0.

There was 1 still birth, making a rate of 4% of live births, this was 3.6% in 1955. The rate for the urban districts was 2.6% and for Montgomeryshire 1.8%.

There were 2 illegitimate births, being 7.7% of total births, this was 6.9% in 1955. The rate for the urban districts was 3.7% and for Montgomeryshire 3.94.

Infant Mortality

There were no deaths of infants under 1 year, comparing with a rate of 71 per 1,000 live births in 1955.

The rate for the urban areas was 26 per 1,000 and for Montgomeryshire 30 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths

There were 25 deaths, giving a rate of 13.66 per 1,000 population, compared with 13.59 in 1955. The rate for the urban districts was 12.78 per 1,000 and for Montgomeryshire 12.19 per 1,000.

National Assistance Act, 1948 -- Section 47.

No action was taken in 1956.

Housing

Work was commenced on the first part of a Scheme for providing 94 houses at Tanrallt Site and by the end of the year 30 houses were almost ready for occupation.

The allocation of these houses is a big problem to the Council. Since Machynlleth is a small town most of the Councillors are well aware of the needs of most of the individual applicants, but not in every case is this knowledge as accurate as it should be. Consequently the assistance of the Medical Officer and Public Health Inspector is often sought in assessing the needs of these applicants on health and sanitation grounds. In order to involve a fair system of allocation the Council considered the advisability of adopting a points scheme. Much time was spent on this scheme by a small Committee, but it was finally not adopted by the Council. When there are so many needy cases of overcrowding and unhealthy and insanitary conditions in the town, a points system would have selected the worst cases and those most in need of rehousing.

During 1956 the Council felt it was unable to rehouse two families who are desperately in need of more accommodation with better facilities, but it is sincerely hoped that these families will be living under better conditions by the time the report for 1957 is written.

Public Conveniences

This again is a constantly recurring problem to the Council, but it appears that at last a start will be made on new conveniences in 1957.

The members of this Council have the well-being and prosperity of this town very much in their thoughts and realise that a prosperous town must be a healthy one. Consequently they are keenly interested in whatever will improve the standards of living of its inhabitants, be it water supply, or housing needs, or good hygiene.

The Council is co-operative with its officials and appreciative of the efforts their officials put in on behalf of the town.

To the Council and to my fellow officials I would like to express my gratitude for this interest and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

AMELIA EVANS.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Area in acres	1,183	1,183
Population (Mid-year estimate)	1,830	1,840
Rateable Value	£20,368	£9,316
Sum represented by penny rate	£84. 3.11d.	£35.19. 5d.

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>1956</u>			<u>1955</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	14	9	23	9	17	26
Illegitimate	1	1	2	2	0	2
Total	15	10	25	11	17	28

Birth rate per 1,000
population -

(a) Machynlleth	13.66	15.22
(b) Urban Districts	14.92	15.53
(c) Montgomeryshire	15.0	14.87

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
1 (Female - legitimate)		1
Rate for Machynlleth (% of live births)	4.0%	} 3.6%
For Urban Districts	2.6%	2.2%
For Montgomeryshire	1.8%	2.6%

<u>Infant Mortality</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year
per 1,000 live births -

For Machynlleth	0	71
For Urban Districts	26	25
For Montgomeryshire	30	28

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>1956</u>			<u>1955</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	10	15	25	10	15	25

Death rate per 1,000
population -

For Machynlleth	13.66	13.59
For Urban areas	12.78	12.70
For Montgomeryshire	12.19	12.57

AGE DISTRIBUTION AT DEATH (ALL CAUSES)

<u>Age group</u>	<u>1956</u>			<u>1955</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	0	0	0	1	1	2
1 - 5 years	1	0	1	0	0	0
5 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 -	2	1	3	1	2	3
55 -	1	3	4	3	2	5
65 -	3	3	6	3	4	7
75 -	2	6	8	2	4	6
85 - and over	1	2	3	0	2	2
Total	10	15	25	10	15	25

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	1956			1955		
	Mal.	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory tuberculosis	0	0	0	1	1	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of lung bronchus	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	1	1	-	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	0	0	-	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2	0	0	0
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	2	4	3	3	6
Coronary diseases (angina)	2	1	3	2	0	2
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other heart disease	3	7	10	0	3	3
Other circulatory disease	0	1	1	0	1	1
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bronchitis	0	2	2	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	0	0	0	1	0	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	-	0	0	-	0
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	0	0	-	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	0	0	0	1	3	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10	15	25	10	15	25

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The infectious diseases which are notifiable are -

Scarlet fever, whooping cough, acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infection, measles, acute pneumonia, diphtheria, dysentery, small pox, acute encephalitis, typhoid fever, paratyphoid, erysipelas and food poisoning.

During the year one case of measles was notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 2 new cases notified in the year -

- (1) Male of 23 years, notified with pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (2) Male aged 54 years notified with pulmonary tuberculosis.

There was one case of a man of 66, with pulmonary tuberculosis, who moved into the district.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

One case left the district - a man of 23 who was notified earlier in the year.

One case was removed from the register due to incorrect diagnosis. This was a woman of 71 notified in 1953 with Lupus vulgaris of nose - the diagnosis being changed to squamous celled carcinoma of nose.

At the end of the year there were 28 cases of notified tuberculosis living in the district.

General Provisions for Health Services in the Area

Ambulance

The local service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone - Machynlleth 158.
Sitting Car Service - All requests to -

County Health Office,
Newtown,
Telephone - Newtown 205.

Children's Officer

This Office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act, 1948.

The Children's Officer is -

Mr. S. M. Parsons,
Children's Department,
County Offices,
Welshpool.

Telephone - Welshpool 3311.

The Children's Reception Home is at -

12 Bronwylfa,
Welshpool.

Telephone - Welshpool 3109.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing

The district is served by -

Nurse M. Jones,
2 Maglona Villas,
Machynlleth.

Telephone - Machynlleth 129.

Health Visiting

The Health Visitor for this district is -

Miss E. Jones,
Caewern,
Corris.

Telephone - Corris 225.

Home Help Service

Home help is available in certain cases on application to

the supervisor -

Mrs. R. Goodwin,
County Health Offices,
Newtown.

Telephone - Newtown 205.

I would bring to the notice of the Council the invaluable service offered by Home Helps - especially in the care of elderly people in their own houses.

Hospitals

The local hospital, the Machynlleth, Corris and District Hospital, is controlled by the Mid-Wales Regional Hospital Board based at Aberystwyth. In addition to Medical and surgical cases, midwifery cases are also admitted.

Laboratory Service

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory service at -

Cardiganshire General Hospital,
Aberystwyth.

Telephone - Aberystwyth 216.

As in previous years the facilities offered by this laboratory have been freely utilised and tribute must be paid to Dr. N. V. Sudds and her staff who are always so willing to help with many technical problems.

Maternity and Child Welfare

The County Council is responsible for this service.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Clinic, Doll Street, Machynlleth, on the second and fourth Tuesday in each month in the afternoon.

Tuberculosis

The service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Chest Physician, Dr. G. O. Thomas, holds clinics every Wednesday at 11.00 a.m. at the Chest Hospital, Machynlleth.

Vaccination

In this district vaccination is carried out by the local General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

Lymph for vaccination against small pox can be obtained from -

Public Health Laboratory,
Cardiff.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Prophylaxis

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the age of nine months to one year, followed by a booster dose when the child goes to school at the age of 5.

The service is carried out by the local General Practitioners and by the County Health Service in the Infant Welfare Clinic and in the local school.

In addition to immunisation against diphtheria, protection against whooping cough is also available and may be given with the diphtheria injections. In such cases three injections are given at monthly intervals commencing at about 7 months.

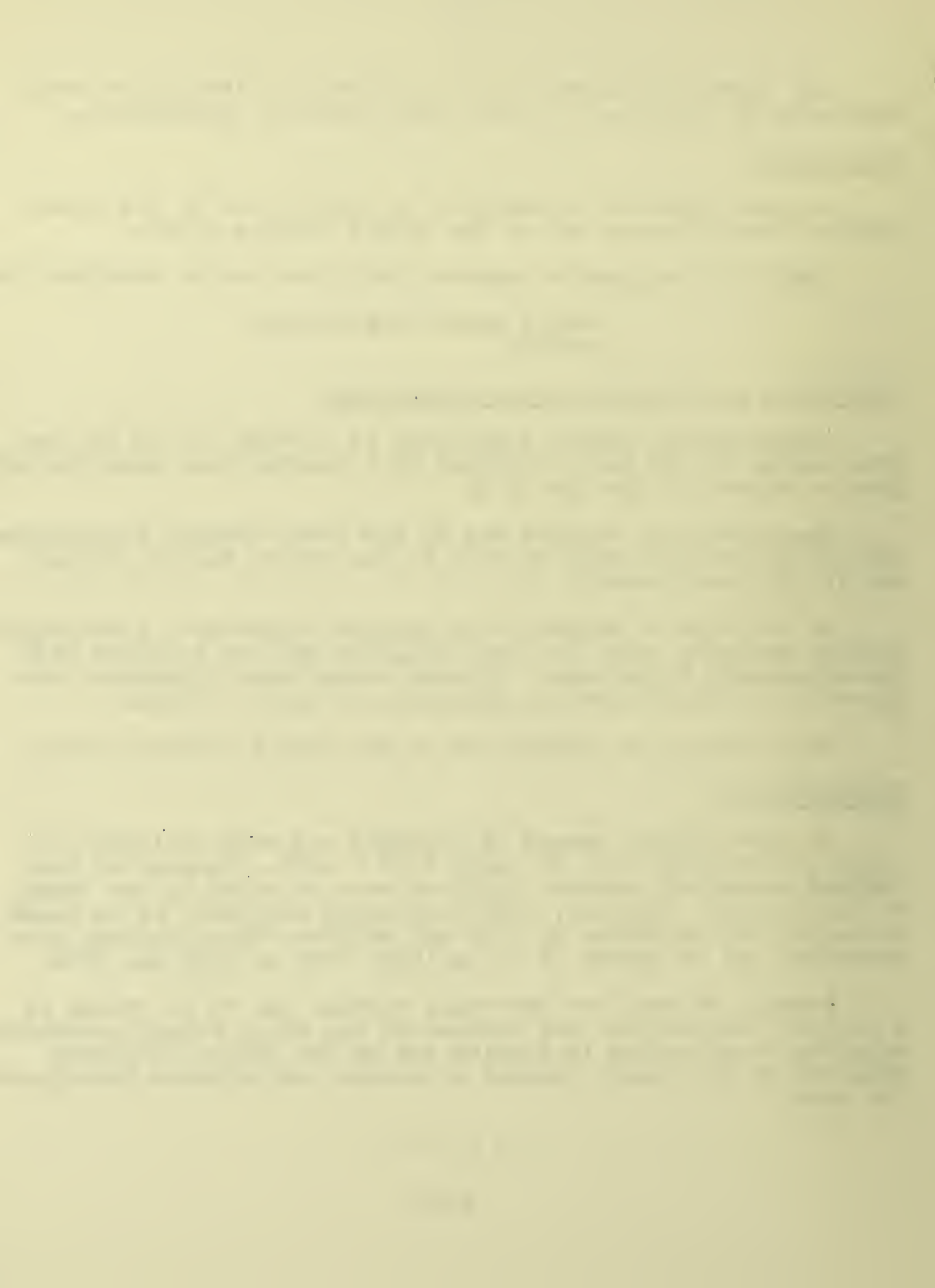
This service is carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

Poliomyelitis

In 1956 a small amount of Polvinin was made available to vaccinate children born in years 1947 - 1954. Because of the limited amount of vaccine, children were selected by the month of their birth. However, with increasing supplies, it is hoped to be able to vaccinate in 1957 all children whose parents have consented and to extend it to children born in 1955 and 1956.

Because of the fact that this vaccine has to be stored at a certain temperature, and because of the still fairly restricted supplies, vaccination is carried out by the Medical Officers employed by the County Council at schools and clinics throughout its area.

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

During the year the supply of water into the town was satisfactory. The renewal of water service pipes to reduce wastage was in progress, and is not complete.

Samples submitted for bacteriological analyses :-

Number of samples taken	-	17
Classification of above :-		
Highly satisfactory	-	16
Unsatisfactory	-	1

The unsatisfactory sample was taken from a point above the treatment plant, a sample of water on same day, taken below the treatment plant was classified "Highly Satisfactory."

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The quality of the meat slaughtered within the Urban Area has been of good standard. The killing of low grade animals with a high proportion of T.B. cattle, referred to in previous reports, has been abandoned.

Apart from one incident there is nothing warranting special mention in this report. The one incident related to the discovery of anthrax in one bovine carcass at the slaughterhouse, involving the condemnation of a number of bovine and sheep carcasses, together with their destruction by burning.

Meat inspection duties were regularly carried out during the year, and apart from the above condemnations were of minor character.

During the year 202 tins and packets of foodstuffs were surrendered and condemned.

HOUSING

Thirty two houses were in course of erection during the year - for general housing needs.

At the close of the year negotiations were in progress as to the erection of thirty houses in connection with the slum clearance proposals of the Council.



HOUSING ACT 1949

Number of applications made for improvement grants	-	2
Number granted	-	2

INFORMAL NOTICES

Number of informal notices served	-	48
Analyses :-		
Drainage or Sanitary defects	-	34
Housing Repair	-	9
Underground gas leakages affecting premises internally	-	3
Other Public Health nuisances	-	2

1. 1990年12月25日，在“九七”香港回归前夕，香港各界人士纷纷发表文章，讨论香港回归后的前途。其中，不少文章都提到，香港回归后，将实行“一国两制”，保持香港的繁荣和稳定。

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